

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT FILLS APPELLATE COURT VACANCY**

The Supreme Court of Illinois announced Wednesday the appointment of John W. Turner of Atlanta, Ill., as a judge on the Illinois Appellate Court for the Fourth Judicial District. He will fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Justice Rita B. Garman to the Supreme Court in February 2000.

Mr. Turner, 45, currently is an Illinois State representative for the 90<sup>th</sup> House District in central Illinois and will bring to the appellate bench not only a knowledge of the legislative and governmental process but also a broad background in criminal and civil law.

In the General Assembly, Mr. Turner serves as the spokesperson for the Judiciary Civil Law Committee. His membership on other legal-related House committees includes the Judiciary Criminal Law Committee and the Prosecutorial Misconduct Committee.

As a practicing attorney, Mr. Turner has experience in both prosecuting and defending criminal cases as a Logan County Public Defender and six years as Logan County state's attorney.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the University of Illinois in Urbana and received his law degree in 1981 from DePaul University College of Law. Since his election to the Illinois House in 1994, he has been engaged in the private practice of law covering a broad range of civil matters.

Mr. Turner will serve by appointment on the Appellate Court until the next general election in November 2002, and it is expected that he will be a candidate for the same appellate judgeship.

His appointment becomes effective June 1, 2001.

"Mr. Turner's experience as state's attorney and public defender for Logan County and his years of private practice, as well as his most recent service as a state representative, will serve him well in meeting the needs of the Appellate Court," said Justice Garman, who recommended his appointment to the full Court.

Mr. Turner resides in Atlanta with his wife, Kimberly, and a son.

Justice Garman, a judge at the Circuit Court and appellate levels for more than 26 years, was appointed to the Supreme Court in February to replace Justice Benjamin K. Miller, who retired.

The Fourth Judicial District is composed of 30 counties across central Illinois.